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Fifty-seventh session
Items 37 and 79 of the preliminary list*

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 21 May 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of the heads of State of the parties to the Treaty on Collective Security on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty, adopted at the meeting of the Council on Collective Security held on 14 May 2002 in Moscow (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 37 and 79 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. **Abelian**
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Annex to the letter dated 21 May 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the heads of State of the parties to the Treaty on Collective Security on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty

We, the heads of State of the parties to the Treaty on Collective Security, assessing the outcome of the ten years of operation of the Treaty, note that the choice made by the States parties to safeguard on a collective basis their security, territorial integrity and sovereignty was well founded and has stood the test of time. The Treaty has demonstrated a commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, its purely defensive orientation, and an openness and readiness to cooperate with other international organizations in the area of security.

The energetic actions taken by the States parties in recent years to strengthen the Treaty and adapt it to the current geopolitical situation have enabled the military and political cooperation among States within the framework of the Treaty to be raised to a qualitatively new level, characterized by the transition from the establishment of the legal and organizational basis for the cooperation to the actual formation of an effective system of collective security. Within the framework of this system, regional forces are being developed in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, as well as a group in Central Asia.

We regard the Treaty on Collective Security as a living and dynamically developing organism, called upon to react in a timely and appropriate manner to the rapidly changing situation in the world. In this connection, an important task of the Treaty is to provide for the collective counteracting of new threats to national, regional and international security, such as terrorism, the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and arms, and organized transnational crime. A first step in this direction was the establishment of the Collective Rapid Deployment Forces of the Central Asian region, which are capable of providing a guaranteed response to any attempts to destabilize the situation in Central Asia.

The States parties to the Treaty have played a fitting role in the global anti-terrorist coalition. They will continue to take a coordinated line in resolving issues related to the post-crisis settlement in Afghanistan and its economic rehabilitation. In so doing, the States parties to the Treaty are proceeding from the assumption that the basic responsibility for the maintenance of peace and stability lies with the States of the region themselves, and they will take all the necessary measures in that direction.

Another key component of the Treaty is the close cooperation among the States parties in matters related to regional and world politics. This form of cooperation will be developed and enhanced in every possible way, using the mechanisms for consultation available within the framework of the Treaty, with a view to securing for the Treaty a weighty and influential role in international affairs. The international ties of the Treaty will be strengthened, as will its working contacts with other regional and multilateral organizations in the area of security. We wish,

however, to reaffirm the pre-eminent character of the military and political relations among the parties to the Treaty.

Taking into account the experience of the operation of the Treaty in safeguarding, on a collective basis, the peace and security of the parties, we declare it advisable to establish, on the basis of the Treaty on Collective Security, an international regional organization, utilizing the mechanisms formed within the framework of the Treaty for cooperation among the States parties in maintaining peace and international security. The acquisition of such a status would mark the beginning of a new phase in the existence of the Treaty and its progressive development in the interests of the States parties and of the entire world community.

We are proceeding from a recognition of the Treaty's indispensability in the current complex international conditions, given the rapidly changing geopolitical situation in the world.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of the Treaty on Collective Security, we wish to reiterate our commitment to the principles of an equitable and democratic world order based on respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. The States parties to the Treaty are fully resolved to play their part in the international efforts to protect and strengthen peace, global security and strategic stability through the counteracting of the new challenges and threats. The military and political structures and mechanisms operating within the framework of the Treaty have been placed in the service of these goals, as has the future unified, full-scale system of collective security, which, we are convinced, will be called upon to play its proper role in the formation of comprehensive systems of collective security in Europe and Asia.

For the Republic of Armenia
(*Signed*) Robert **Kocharian**

For the Republic of Belarus
(*Signed*) Aleksandr **Lukashenko**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
(*Signed*) Nursultan **Nazarbaev**

For the Kyrgyz Republic
(*Signed*) Askar **Akayev**

For the Russian Federation
(*Signed*) Vladimir **Putin**

For the Republic of Tajikistan
(*Signed*) Emomali **Rakhmonov**